AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

in a network, responding to a request for a computational resource ~~available for~~ to begin computing a task by sending a list of ~~available~~ computational resources;

receiving a selection of a computational resource for reservation;

if the selection of the computational resource is available ~~for~~ to begin computing the task, reserving the selection and sending a reservation number for the selection; and

sending the request to a different portion of the network if computational resources are unavailable ~~for~~ to begin computing the task.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the list of ~~available~~ computational resources comprises network addresses of the ~~available~~ computational resources.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein reserving the selection further comprises assigning the reservation number.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which reserving further comprises:

waiting a predetermined time period for the computational resource to begin computing the task; and

if the predetermined time period is expired and the computational resource has not begun computing the task, then freeing the computational resource for subsequent reservation for computing a second task.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein responding to the request further comprises comparing requirements for computing the task with specifications of the available computational resources.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising generating a list of computational resources by querying a portion of the network.

7. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

in a network, sending, by a first service, a request for a list of one or more computational resources that are available for to begin computing a task;

responding, by a second service, to the request by collecting information on computational resources;

sending a list of available computational resources;

receiving a selected computational resource for reservation;

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reserving the selected computational resource and sending reservation number

of the selected computational resource if the selected computational resource is

available ~~for~~ to begin computing the task; and

sending the request to begin computing the task, to a ~~second~~ third service if the

~~first~~ second service has no information on available computational resources .

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein sending the list of available

computational resources comprises sending network addresses of the available

computational resources.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein reserving the selected

computational resource further comprises assigning a reservation number.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7 in which reserving further comprises:

waiting a predetermined time period for a request for the selected computational

resource to begin computing the task; and

releasing the selected computational resource for subsequent reservation for

computing a second task if the predetermined time period is over and the request for

the reserved computational resource has not been received.

11. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein responding to the request further

comprises comparing requirements for computing the task with specifications of

available computational resources that are described by information accessible to the first service.

12. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the second service has a stored relation to the first service.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the first service executes instructions on a first computer system and the computational resources managed by the first service comprise a first set of computational resources located on the first computer system.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein [[a]] the third service has a stored relation with the first service, the third service executes instructions on a second computer system, and the computational resources that are described by information accessible to the first service further comprise a second set of computational resources that are described by information accessible to the third service.

15. (Currently Amended) A network comprising:

a first computer system having a first set of one or more computational resources and configured to execute instructions of a first service; and

a second computer system configured to execute instructions of a second service, the first service configured to:

respond to a request for a list of computational resources ~~for~~ to begin computing a task by collecting information on at least the first set of one or more computational resources;

send a list comprising a subset of the first set of the one or more computational resources;

receive a selection of a computational resource for reservation;

reserve the selection and send an address of the selection if the selection of the computational resource is available ~~for~~ to begin computing the task; and

send the request to the second service if computational resources are unavailable ~~for~~ to begin computing the task.

16. (Original) The network of claim 15 further comprising:

a third computer system having a second set of one or more computational resources and configured to execute instructions of a third service, the third service having an stored relation to the first service; wherein the first service is further configured to collect information on the second set of one or more computational resources and the list further comprises a subset of the second set of the one or more computational resources.

17. (Original) The network of claim 15 wherein reserving the selection further comprises assigning a reservation number.

18. (Original) The network of claim 15 wherein the first service is further configured to:

wait a predetermined time period for the reserved computational resource to begin computing the task; and

if the predetermined time period is over and the reserved computational resource has not begun computing the task, then free the reserved computational resource for subsequent reservation for computing a second task.

19. (Original) The network of claim 15 wherein to respond to the request further comprises comparing requirements for computing the task with specifications of available computational resources from the first and second sets of computational resources.

20. (Original) The network of claim 15 wherein the second service has a stored relation to the first service.